REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated March 28, 2011 in which claims 1, 3-11, 13-20, 36 and 37 were pending and were rejected. In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. All references to the present application are made with respect to the published version at US PAP 2005/0096955.

Claim Amendments

With this response, Applicant has amended independent claims 11 and 13, cancelled claims 1, 3-10, 19-20, and 36-37, and added new claims 38-50. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found at least in Figures 4 and 5B, and paragraphs [0009], [0039], [0047], and [0062].

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 15, 19-20, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as allegedly being unpatentable over Hajmiragha (US Patent No. 6,289,460) in view of Beran et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0055888, hereinafter "Beran"). Claims 7 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as allegedly being unpatentable over Hajmiragha in view of Beran, and further in view of Heimermann et al. (US Patent No. 7,110,976).

Hajmiragha is directed to allowing predesignated users at remotely located computer-based systems to perform *document management*. Hajmiragha is not in the field of requisitions for goods and services and does not relate to requests for quotations. Figure 2 of Hajmiragha is reproduced below:
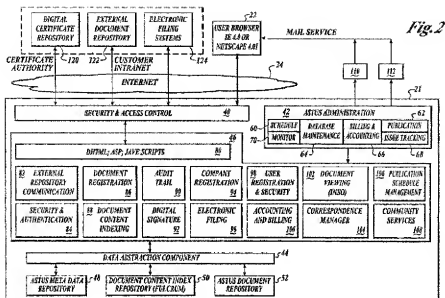
Hajmiragha, figure 2.

As seen from Figure 2 of Hajmiragha, supplier quotations and RFQs are not described. There is no teaching or suggestion of an RFQ generation engine or downloading an RFQ generation engine to a requester where the engine is used to enter job information into an RFQ template.

On the other hand, Beran is directed to a centralized commerce system, controlled by a single central server and database, for handling requisitions for goods and services. Beran illustrates the central database in Figure 2:

SOFTWARE MODULE CONFIGURATION
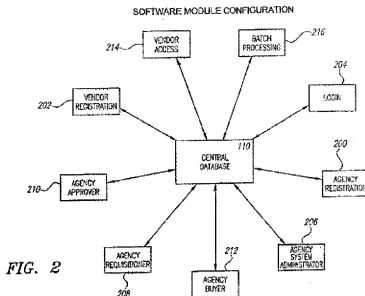
FIG. 2

Beran, figure 2.

Beran makes it abundantly clear that users of its system all access its system and "share the central database 110" (paragraph [0014]). It is described that all the modules of the centralized system in FIG. 2 are within system 100 and local to database 110 (see paragraphs [0014] and [0018]). Users login through login module 204 which then enables the particular modules within centralized system 100 that the user is authorized to access (paragraph [0018]). Like Hajmiragha, Beran also does not teach or suggest downloading an RFQ generation engine to a requester where the engine is used at the requester to enter job information into an RFQ template.

Further, Beran also is void of any teaching or suggestion that an RFQ template is <u>saved in a data store local to a computing system at the requestor</u> or that a reply to an RFQ template is <u>received at the requestor</u> and automatically based on the award criteria in the RFQ template. In Beran, agency buyers and vendors log in to central database 100 (see e.g., paragraph [0014] and [0018]); there is no teaching or suggestion than a reply is received at a requestor and automatically evaluated as claimed.

Additionally, claim 11, as amended, recites in part:

. . . after the RFQ generation engine is downloaded to the requester, using the RFQ

generation engine at the requester to enter the job information into a predetermined
RFQ template, *the RFQ template having a plurality of fields comprising:*

> *a category field,*
>
> *a job description field for the requested job,*
>
> *an award criteria field indicative of criteria considered in awarding the*
> *requested job to a supplier,*
>
> *a date of delivery field, and*
>
> *an expiration date field indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ; . . .*

Claim 11, (emphasis added).

Figure 5B of the present specification illustrates, without limitation, an example RFQ
template:

312

RFQ TEMPLATE
CATEGORY: SIC CODE
JOB DESCRIPTION: COMMERCIAL PAINTING
ITEM: BICYCLE FRAMES
NUMBER: 250
DATE OF DELIVERY: MM/DD/YY
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: NEW YORK
QUALITY STANDARDS: SPECIFICATION OF PAINT
DETAILS: PAINT PROCESS STEPS REQUIRED
OPTIONAL SUPPLIER PREDESIGNATION:
AWARD CRITERIA: ALL AND PRICE
RFQ EXPIRATION DATE: MM/DD/YY

Present Application, figure 2.

Neither Hajmiragha nor Beran describe an RFQ template with *"a category field, a job*
description field for the requested job, an award criteria field indicative of criteria considered
in awarding the requested job to a supplier, a date of delivery field, and an expiration date
field indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ." As described previously, Hajmiragha does
not describe RFQ templates, and therefore Hajmiragha does not describe fields within the

template. Beran mentions Requests for Quotation (see e.g. Abstract). However, Beran fails to detail fields within the template. More specifically, Beran does not teach or suggest that an RFQ template includes a category field, a job description field, an award criteria field, a date of delivery field, and an expiration date field. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 11 is neither taught, suggested, nor rendered obvious by the cited references and is in allowable form.

With respect to amended independent claim 13, Applicant contends that Hajmiragha and Beran at least do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, entering job information into an RFQ template comprising a category and description of the requested job, an award criteria, and an expiration date of the RFQ.

Further, neither reference discloses filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to an RFQ template. The Office Action cites col. 7, lines 33-54 of Hajmiragha as allegedly discloses these features. Hajmiragha does not relate to RFQs or filter criteria for suppliers. Hajmiragha simply mentions that a document <u>acquires</u> an attribute during "access control definition" (see FIG. 2) and does not teach or suggest that a requester enters criteria into a template indicative of suppliers <u>authorized to reply</u> to the template.

Further yet, as similarly mentioned above neither Hajhmiragha nor Beran teach or suggest receiving a reply to the RFQ template at the requester and evaluating the reply based on award criteria in the RFQ template.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 is neither taught, suggested, nor rendered obvious by the cited references and is in allowable form.

Applicant contends that related dependent claims 14-18 are also in allowable form at least based on their relation to independent claims 11 and 13, discussed above.

New Claims

With respect to new independent claim 38, Applicant contends that Hajmiragha and Beran at least do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, "receiving an RFQ template *at a supplier computing system* describing a requested job from the RFQ index builder, the RFQ template *being generated by a manufacturer*" (emphasis added). Further, as similarly discussed above the references also do not teach or suggest an RFQ template including "*a*

category and description of the requested job, an award criteria for the requested job, a date of delivery, and an expiration date of the RFQ" (emphasis added). Hajmiragha does not describe supplier quotations or RFQs. While Beran may perhaps mention RFQ, it does not detail fields within an RFQ template.

The references also do not teach or suggest "using an RFQ reply engine *at the supplier computing system* to generate a reply to the RFQ template" and "transmitting the reply *from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer that generated the RFQ template*"(emphasis added). In the centralized system of Beran, agency buyers and vendors log in to central database 100 (see e.g., paragraph [0014] and [0018]); there is no teaching or suggestion of generating a reply at a supplier and transmitting the reply to a manufacturer.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 38 is neither taught, suggested, nor rendered obvious by the cited references and is in allowable form.

With respect to new independent claim 45, Applicant contends that Hajmiragha and Beran at least do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system or saving an RFQ template in a data store local to the manufacturer computing system. Additionally, the references also do not teach or suggest an RFQ template having a plurality of fields including a job category field, a job description field, a delivery date field, a location field, and an award criteria field, or receiving award criteria into an award criteria field of an RFQ template indicative of criteria considered by the manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 45 is neither taught, suggested, nor rendered obvious by the cited references and is in allowable form.

Applicant contends that related dependent claims 39-44 and 46-50 are also in allowable form at least based on their relation to independent claims 38 and 45, discussed above.

Conclusion

The foregoing remarks are intended to assist the Office in examining the application and in the course of explanation may employ shortened or more specific or variant descriptions of some of the claim language. Such descriptions are not intended to limit the scope of the claims;

the actual claim language should be considered in each case. Furthermore, the remarks are not to be considered exhaustive of the facets of the claimed subject matter, which are rendered patentable, being only examples of certain advantageous features and differences, which Applicant's representative chooses to mention at this time. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant reserves the right to submit additional evidence showing the claimed subject matter to be unobvious in view of the art of record.

Furthermore, in commenting on the references and in order to facilitate a better understanding of the differences that are expressed in the claims, certain details of distinction between the references and language of the claims have been mentioned, even though such differences may not appear in all of the claims. It is not intended by mentioning any such unclaimed distinctions to create any implied limitations in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

By: _____

Christopher J. Volkmann, Reg. No. 60,349
Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A.
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3244

One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399
Phone: (425) 707-9382

CJV:slg